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The passions are of two kinds, viz; Such as increase the force of the heart and arteries, and are consequently stimulant; and such as debilitate or depress them, producing a sedative effect; altho emotions do not constitute any part of the subject of this essay, yet it will not be deemed unimportant to include a distinction between them and passions, and thus obviate the confusion of making them synonymous with the latter.

Those sensible effects which are perceived to arise from the predominance of a particular passion or sensation, have been denominated emotions: the the terror which pervades the coward in the hour of danger appears in the wild expression of his face, the agitation of his limbs, and the movements of his body: these constitute emotions.

Dr Rush admits the following distinction between them; passions have for their object future, and emotions present good and evil.

There are two classes of affections of the mind, the one exercises a hurtful, the other a salutary influence upon the system; the first comprehends envy, jealousy, fear, grief and anger; the second Hope, joy, Love, Inhibition. &c. &c.

It will be proper to consider the diseases which are produced by the passions, and then the effects of the same agents; in restoring the Body to a State of health

With a view to elucidate those positions, it will be necessary to bring such facts into view, as I have been able to collect, not only from the writings of a few ancient authors, but also from the testimony of many persons in modern times.

As it it would necessarily enlarge this essay beyond proper limits, I have therefore confined myself to the investigation of Grief, Fear, Anger and Joy. Having premised the above succinct Observations, I proceed to the consideration of each in the order intended to be perused.

Of Grief.

This passion exerts a very pernicious influence on the System: we may well conceive and be enabled to form some judgement of its operation, by witnessing the changes induced on the animal economy by its operation in the privation of that domestic contentment, which a parent sustains in the death of his beloved.

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offspring. We witness the departure of the most important agents, in the promotion and support of health and life. It is in this condition of human suffering the physician views the ravage committed on the mind and body; When it is indulged to excess, and when the system has been long under its influence, it produces a degree of torpor in every irritable part: the mind is corroded, the body wasted and enfeebled. It produces a dejection and paleness of the countenance, languor of the circulation, coldness of the extremities, contraction and shrinking of the skin, weakness of the appetite; it sometimes imperiates and deranges the mind.

Although the effects of grief are for the most part gradual, yet when suddenly excited, it has prostrated the functions of life with the rage of epidemic violence.

Dr. Rush, in his "account of the influence of the American Revolution on the body" states, that numerous instances of Apoplexy in the Winter of 1774-5. from the solicitude which prevailed, concerning the event of a petition to the throne of Great Britain; which was to protract the war, "It was observed in South-

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-Carolina" says the Doctor "that several gen-
-tlemen, who had protected their estates by swa-
-ring allegiance to the british government, died
soon after the evacuation of Charleston, by the
British army; their deaths were ascribed to the
neglect, with which they were treated by their
ancient friends, who had adhered to the
government of the United States.

Professor James, presents the following re-
-marks; "That grief exerts an injurious influ-
-ence on the system, during the period of gesta-
-tion, for those unfortunate females who have been
seduced from the paths of Virtue, and are forced
to retire from their families and friends, to
hide the publicity of their shame, by continually
dwelling on their situation, become so irritable
that the slightest causes produce convulsions:
hence, the importance of guarding against
the exciting causes of passions; knowing the per-
-nicious influence they have on women, during
the period of gestation and parturition.

Case 1st

Van Swieten. Vol. 10. page. 250. relates from

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Montagne the following case; viz. while every body admired the bravery of a Soldier in battle, and were much grieved, when at last they saw him fall; his arms were taken from him that they might know who he was. A Nobleman (whose posterity is still in great esteem; and confirmed to me the truth of this fact) came running among the rests, and seeing it was his Son, he grew stiff with his eyes open, and immediately fell down dead.

Of Fear.

This passion maintains a Sovereignty in its morbid effects, not less considerable than grief. It is one which pervades the class of mankind to a less extent. Among the illiterate its predominance has wider limits, while the cultivated and improved minds of the better educated portion of the community are not as frequently convulsed by its influence: in the latter condition of enlightened humanity, the vivid flash of the lightening, the awful peals of "heavens artillery:" the tremendous cataract, are rather so many subjects of delight to the eye than fear. Their causes excite the active

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investigation of the philosophick mind, while the unimproved intellect agitated by a host of unfounded and sickening apprehensions, trembles to advance beyond its habitual conviction of error. It is the contrary with grief; this passion has its dominion acknowledged from the imperial and august Sovereign, to the unhappy wandering mendicant. Dr. Crichton remarks that this emotion, is never excited in the human breast, but through the medium of foresight, for although it may arise from present calamities as well as past, yet it is not the uneasiness which the calamity occasions, we call fear, but that which arises from what we think will follow.

The love of life has been regarded as the deepest seated principle of man. Whatsoever endangers it, will excite passions or emotions proportionate in force to the tenacity with which we retain. fear, therefore in as much as it is a passion which consists in an apprehension of ill from offending causes, and an aversion to exposure to such ill when life is affected by it, will be admitted to operate with a degree exceeding others.

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subside with the gratification of a resentful motive or under the influence of time: in excessive grief the sympathetic tear and the consolation of friends, will sometimes assuage it. With the accomplishment of its purposes, ambition will occasionally subside into tranquil repose; but fear when it is excited by the prospect of evil to the safety of life, seldom admits of the sympathy of friends or time, to remove its accompanying inquietude.

Martyrs are said to have resigned their lives with composure at the dreadful stake where flames envelopped their bodies; but here the passion of fear was displaced by the invigoration imparted to the mind by dwelling on the felicity of another better World, and the protection of a beneficent and merciful Creator.

Fear when it exists to any extent produces Manifest mischievous effects, the symptoms which indicate fear, are distortion of the countenance, increase of respiration, weakness of the pulse, trembling and agitation of the whole body; when it amounts to extensive terror fatal convulsions ensue, or the body is sunk down into the disease called catalepsy these are the vehement effects of fear: but it often exercises a more partial and still hurtful influ-

-ence upon the body, and this has been often observed during the prevalence of Epidemics.

The toll of the bell and the passing corpse, have hurried out of the world numbers of patients suffering under the prevailing disease.

But its operation is not exclusively upon the nervous system, it has often been the cause of diabetes, diarrhoea, uterine, haemorrhage and even insanity itself, has been traced to a powerful shock produced upon the system, by the sight of a terrifying Object.

Case 1st

Van Swieten informs us. Vol. 10. p. 332. that a boy was so frightened by a large dog jumping upon him, that soon after he fell down Epileptic, and afterwards on seeing a large dog, or even hearing him bark, the paroxysm returned.

That convulsions may be excited only by beholding others affected with fits, appears from Dr Rush's M. S. lectures.

Greeding has furnished the world with several instances of Epilepsy, one particularly in which epilepsy was complicated with Melancholia

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and insanity; the following is the case.

Case 2nd

A young man aged 23. was in his 8th year suddenly frightened by a dog, the impression often recurred, and used to awaken him at night being then always tormented with the idea of his being attacked by the animal: he was at first seized by the Epilepsy, the paroxysms of which occurred every half hour, but which after some time returned every Month. he was also afflicted with borborygmus, loss of appetite, violent head-ache and weakness of the understanding; delirium ensued and continued for several days together, which symptoms were succeeded by vertigo after having continued three years.

Case 3rd

A person in an hospital fell down in an epileptic fit, in the sight of the other patients, the effect of this was so strang, that numbers of them became immediately affected in the same manner, and their paroxysms continued and were repeated at the

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sight of one another in that state: the opinion of that great Physician. Dr. Boerhaave, was requested in this occasion, he judiciously reflected that these fits were originally produced by impressions on the mind: that the most proper means of cure, would be to eradicate these impressions by others still more powerful: he therefore directed actual cauteries to be prepared, and kept hot, in readiness to be applied to the person who should next be affected: the consequence was, that afterwards not one person was seized: Vide Falconer on the passions p. 100. vestals

The influence of fear in producing death, appears to be completely evinced, in an account of a particular case brought on by fright, in a polish soldier which terminated in death in the course of twenty days. Vide Chricton. Vol. 2. p. 264. fear has occasioned the disease of tetanus; of this Dr. Rush has mentioned an instance in a soldier who was condemned to be shot, but on being pardoned was unable to rise from the posture in which he was placed to meet his doom.

An instance remarkable for the cause, which induced death, thro the medium of fear, is stated by Pechlin. A lady of quality who had several times without alarm seen the comet, which

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appeared in 1681. was one night tempted to examine it by a telescope, the sight of it in this way terrified her so much that she was with difficulty carried home, and the impression remaining, she died in a few days afterwards.

Strange as it may appear, the effect this passion produces on the hair of the head, changing it to a gray colour, appears to be well authenticated, in the literary Magazine, Vol. 2. p. 195, there is an anecdote related of a boy, in one of the rudest parts of the county of Clare, in Ireland, whose hair was turned from a dark auburne to gray, in the course of a quarter of an hour.

This is further confirmed by the case of a French Gentleman related by Boulli, and quoted by Dr. Crichton, in whom the same change was effected during one night.

Dr. Rush relates the case of a man's hair becoming gray from fear, in consequence of the earth quake that destroyed Lisbon in the year 1755. the pernicious effects of fear, upon the female system is well known; it has produced abortion, suppression of catamenia and milk.

Having adduced these instances of the evidently morbid influence of fear, and mentioned

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the diseases which are consequent on its habitual presence, I shall proceed to speak of Anger.

Of Anger.

This is a passion suddenly excited, and which often no less suddenly subsides; equally furious and ungovernable in its nature, it may justly be consid=ered as a transient fit of madness. When the mind is under its excessive influence and improp=erly indulged, it cannot fail to produce violent impressions on the system: it is in the mind, what a whirlwind is in the atmosphere; it disturbs its tranquility, usurps the throne of reason, and is prone to every species of rashness and indiscretion. Which is too frequently productive of the most horrible and attrocious deeds: hence to those who are constitutionally exposed to its influence, we should strenuously recommend to shun, to use every effort to restrain this odious ebullition of the temper.

The symptoms which designate this passion, are obvious at a mere glance: the face for the most part becomes red, the eyes sparkle with fury, an outrageous countenance becomes immediately visible;

an increase of strength pervades the whole body, an increased flow of saliva, volubility of the tongue or a suspension of its motions: it stimulates the heart and arteries, and produces a determination of blood to the head, and induces affections of the brain; it has caused mania and epilepsy, and numerous cases are on record, of its having produced immediate death by apoplexy; but it also produces several subordinate effects, it predisposes to intemperance and debauch, it becomes the parent of various diseases, and it has been remarked that a paroxysm of anger during an epidemic is often immediately followed by an attack of the prevailing disease. X

In females it causes nervous affections and abortions: it would be easy for me to select many interesting cases to illustrate the pernicious effects of this passion; but as it would necessarily enlarge this essay, I shall content myself by relating three of the most striking cases on record.

Case 1st

An old german cobler, who resided in Philadelphia, was greatly irritated by some mischievous boys; blowing the smoke of tobacco, through the

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key hole of his shop door; he ran out with an iron poker in his hand and pursued them, and they still continuing to tantalize him, he became so highly enraged, that he fell dead in an apoplexy.

Dr. Rush's M. S. lectures.

Case 2nd.

The same author mentions the case of a miser who fell dead, whilst complaining to a tax-gatherer.

Case 3rd.

In the life of the celebrated Mr. John Hunter, it is said he fell a victim to this passion, which induced an apoplexy of which he immediately died.

Of Joy.

Joy is a passion, in which the mind feels a sudden, and extraordinary pleasure; every one who has felt joy, knows, that like anger it excites the system and increases the circulation, when moderate and existing only in the form of cheerfulness it has a beneficial effect, and greatly

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conduces to health: but when unexpectedly excited and vident, (and particularly if it follows extreme grief) it is productive of immediate death, apoplexy and Mania.

Case 1st.

In the year 1544. the fierce pirate Sinamus Jafflunus, was lying in a port of the red-sea, called Arsenoea, and was preparing for war, being then engaged in one with the Portuguese. While he was there, he received the unexpected intelligence that his son, who in the siege of Tunis, had been made prisoner by Barbarossa, and by him doomed to slavery, was suddenly ransomed and coming to his aid with seven ships, well armed: the joyful news was too much for him; he was immediately struck as with apoplexy, and expired on the spot.

Vide. Crichton. Vol. 2. p. 170.

Case 2nd.

My worthy preceptor Dr. Chapman relates in his lectures, the case of a door-keeper to the house of Congress, who suddenly died with an apoplexy

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Case 3rd

A roman mother upon beholding her son, whom she thought long since dead, was overpowered with Joy, and expired under its effects.

Having endeavoured to shew by the relation of various cases, that many diseases may be induced by mental impressions. I shall proceed to another part of the subject; viz. the influence of the same agents in restoring the body to a state of health.

Cases to prove the influence of the passions, in the cure of diseases.

Fear.

Case 1st.

A letter from Dr. Maxwell Sharp, of Logan County, Kentucky, to Dr. B. Rush, gives an account of a girl afflicted with rheumatism, who had not walked for two years a more; her father moved to the red banks on the Ohio, and took

lodgings in a room belonging to a man of the name of Summers, up one pair of stairs. One evening a circumstance occurred (which is detailed in the letter) that alarmed the family to such a degree that they immediately fled down stairs. The diseased girl fearing to be left alone, in her fright rose up and followed the rest of the family, and has continued free from pain ever since.

Medical Museum. Vol 1. No. 3. p. 292.

Case 2nd

Judge Rush, of Berks County, in a letter to his Brother Dr B. Rush, which is published in his 5th volume of enquiries and observations. p. 193. relates the case of Peter Tether, a householder in reading, who had been severely afflicted with the gout for some years; in particular the last fit in 1785, was so severe as to induce an apprehension that it would inevitably carry him off, when he was suddenly relieved by the following accident.

As he lay in a small back room adjoining the yard, it happened that one of the sons in turning a waggon and horses, drove the tongue of the waggon with such force against the window near which

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the old man lay stretched on a bed, as to beat in the sash of the window, and to scatter the pieces of broken glass all about him; to such a degree was he alarmed by the noise and violence, that he instantly leaped out of bed, forgot that he had ever used crutches, and eagerly enquired what was the matter.

His wife hearing the uproar, ran into the room, where to her astonishment, she found her husband on his feet, bawling against the author of the mischief with the most passionate vehemence.

From this moment he has been entirely exempt from the gout, has never had the slightest touch of it, and now enjoys perfect health, has a good appetite and says he never was heartier in his life.

Case. 2.

Dr. Hull, in a letter to Dr. Rush published in his second volume of enquiries and observations, p. 182. relates a case of Ascites cured by fright; the same author mentions several other cases to prove the influence of fear in curing dropsy.

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Anger.

Case 1st

The case of a man of letters is related by van-Swieten, who having conceiled his legs to be made of glass, would not therefore presume to stand a walk upon them; but being caried from the bed to the fire side, sat there from morning till night. the maid servant bringing some wood to keep up the fire, threw it rudely down, so as to put the champion in fear of his glass legs, for which he therefore severely rebuked her; thereupon the maid being of an angry temper, and tired of her masters foolishness, struck him a good blow on the shins with one of the sticks, the smart pain, of which raised his anger to get up and take revenge for the injury. Soon after his anger subsided, and he grew well pleased that he could stand upon his legs again, that vain notion being thus expelled from his fancy. Van Swieten. Vol. IV.th p. 101.

Case 2nd

Dr. Rush in his lectures, mentions the case of a

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Scotch gentleman, ill, of typhus-fever, who sent for a clergyman and expressed to him his sorrow, for having written a book against christianity; the clergyman told him he did not think the book had done much injury, for that it had been but very little read, and had never circulated beyond his own neighbourhood. What is that you say? replied the sick man. my book never read! begone, you are a fool, he began to recover from this time.

Joy.

A gouty person condemned to lose his head, as they carried him out in order to be executed, received the most unexpected news of his pardon, which had so remarkable an effect upon him, that although he was quite exhausted with pain, and had lost the use of every limb, yet he got up on his legs immediately, and walked with remarkable quickness and agility, and lived many years after without having the least touch of the disorder: the case is preserved in the public records, and therefore merits some degree of credit. van Swieten. vol. 13. p. 38.

In Dr. Lind's treatise on the scurvy, a very interesting detail is given, of the cure of that dreadful

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disorder which affords a striking instance of the power of the imagination combined with hope in the cure of disease. Lind on the Scurvy. p. 352.

Although no cases are inserted to shew the therapeutic power of grief, yet as a sedative passion, it may in certain cases, be advantageously opposed to rage.

Having considered the influence of the mind upon the body, in the production, as well as cure of diseases, and endeavoured to prove that even life may be suddenly extinguished by the force of mental impressions; I have at length arrived at the limits assigned for this essay; I am fully sensible of its many imperfections, the condition to which it exposes my inexperience, yet as liberality of sentiment is an attendant on minds that are endowed with genius and judgement, this compels me to seek in the benevolent and enlightened professors of the University of Pennsylvania, the only refuge from my apprehensions, which their lenity and indulgence can afford: the acknowledgements and obligations which are due to those who have rendered us an essential service, are none, superior to such as the enlightening instructors of youth in the various departments of Science have a right to claim.

In thus professing the warmest testimonies of

which a youthful heart is susceptible, it is a tribute offered from the most convincing belief of your integrity as men, and your ability as professional characters: time and posterity will unfold to an admiring world. Your well founded pretensions to station among the boasted literati of the European continent, when national prejudice will cease to oppose a barrier to the extension of your well merited fame, and stern justice decree you the celebrity which invariably crowns the operations of literary ambition.

Edwin. L. [redacted]